

AS TO NATURAL GAS.

The Special Council Committee Takes the Night

TO CONSIDER DETAILS GIVEN

By General Manager George Heard of the Company's Business Since It Began Operations and Its Financial Condition Now—Why an Increase of Prices Seems an Imperative Necessity to the Company. Divergent Views of the Committee—A Definite Proposal is Asked.

Last night the special committee of council appointed to consider the proposal of the Natural Gas Company of West Virginia, to surrender its franchise of 1885, including the exclusive right to sell natural gas in Wheeling for domestic purposes, if the company could be allowed to conduct business here on such reasonable regulations as might be agreed upon, held its first meeting, there being present Dr. Taylor, Capt. Otto, Mr. Butts, Mr. Bodley, Mr. McKelvey and Mr. Bachmann, of the committee, and General Manager Heard and Mr. Hare, of the natural gas company, and Mr. W. H. Hearne, the company's attorney. City Solicitor Hoyce also attended.

Mr. Bodley moved that Dr. Taylor be made the chairman, which was done.

Mr. Heard said the only suggestion as to new rates was one by Capt. Bachman, that the price be raised from fifteen to twenty-five cents a thousand cubic feet, with a discount of 10 per cent for cash. This would make a net increase of 50 per cent in prices. He thought the company had earned the right to liberal treatment at the hands of the city. Besides this, it was, it seemed to him, to the interest of the city to have the gas remain in use. It would be a great detriment to the community to have it taken out. The company had done a great deal for Wheeling. In Pittsburgh there never was any restriction on the price to be charged. He suggested.

A NEW ORDINANCE.

simply giving the company the right of way and repealing all existing provisions.

One company in Pittsburgh had sued the city and the court decided that there was no exclusive right, and that none could be granted, and that no special restrictions could be affixed to any ordinance granting permission to do business in the city. He thought Wheeling had been treated too liberally; her terms did not encourage anybody to bring gas here.

Dr. Taylor asked a number of pertinent questions as to the contract, etc., which Mr. Heard answered.

In response to an inquiry by Capt. Otto, Mr. Heard said he believed the other company already here would gradually take on domestic consumers; if gas were to be struck within ten or twelve miles of Wheeling, he had no doubt new companies would come in, to the mill trade, and they would gradually branch out into other fields.

The price paid here, fifteen cents, was cheaper in proportion than bituminous coal at five cents a bushel, to say nothing of the advantages of the use of gas.

Dr. Taylor thought the cost of gas is much higher now than when the company first came here. Mr. Heard said the company then took in more money than now, but under the loose old contract system, people burned more gas by great odds than they needed. He believed the company could furnish the city with.

AN ADEQUATE SUPPLY OF GAS.

if its revenues were increased so as to justify the hunting up of a new base of supply.

Mr. McKelvey asked if the city of Pittsburgh did not receive a revenue from the gas companies for the use of the streets, and Mr. Heard said she did not receive any compensation in any way. He thought it right that corporations should pay for privileges, but he thought that the Natural Gas Company of West Virginia had already paid a fair rate. The company is in debt, and came to the conclusion that there is no use to try to do business at the fifteen cent rate.

At the start the company had furnished the city with free gas worth at least \$30,000 a year. He figured that the city had received free gas worth in the aggregate \$200,000. Wheeling had never received any compensation of any kind from any other corporation for a franchise, so far as he could find out.

Dr. Taylor asked what would become of the pipes in the streets if the company ceased operations without a new contract, and was answered that these would remain the property of the company, and Mr. Heard intimated that they would be taken up and sold.

AS TO A DAMAGE SUIT.

Mr. Heard said that would open a wide question. If it was shown that the city had exceeded her rights in granting the privileges, then the company could maintain a suit for the value of the gas furnished free. His people, however, desired to avoid litigation. If denied relief, as he did not believe they would be, the company would sue. They had the end of the road, and could not lower furnish gas at 15 cents. To raise the rates would increase the supply of gas brought here. The company made less than \$50,000 in nine years, and was now in debt.

If driven out of the business here the company would sell its gas product in bulk at Pittsburgh, and could get more revenue at less expense for operations.

Mr. Hearne said the West Virginia supreme court had decided that an exclusive franchise could not be granted.

Mr. Butts said he held that view at the time it was granted, but he was overruled. He did not vote for the right, and he did not get any stock.

In response to this intimation, Mr. Heard said there had been a good deal of loose talk to the effect that councilmen had received stock as a gift, but there was nothing in any of it.

The inquiry then came up whether an exclusive franchise for which the city received compensation would not hold good in law, but no conclusion was reached.

When the contract was made, Mr. Heard said, the supply of gas was about four times as large as it is now. It was a general idea then that the gas would not give out, but this was shown to be erroneous.

There could be no danger of a monopoly at unreasonable prices, for new restrictions would be proper. The action asked for would simply open the door for competition, and he had no doubt the Wheeling company would also be furnishing private consumers at an early date.

ACTION FINALLY DEFERRED.

In reference to a report as to competition offered on the same terms when this first contract was made, it was explained that the only offer was made by C. Robbins, and he had no company behind him.

Mr. Heard said his company averages about six new wells a year, over a wide range of territory. It might get a little gas at Colerain, O., but he had no great expectations from that field.

Mr. Heard later asked if the members present did not think that in the abstract the prospect was good. That the price of natural gas should be raised in Wheeling, just as much as the price of flour should be raised if the price paid was not sufficient to bring it here. Nobody answered, and there was some more desultory discussion, and finally Dr. Taylor said he thought there was grave objection to any increase or any further extension of the contract.

Finally Messrs. Heard, Hearne and Hare retired and the committee, left to itself, entered into a lively and business-like discussion.

The question seemed to be whether it

was better to adhere rigidly to the contract and "take chances" on the company's quitting the business, or throw the doors open for higher prices and see if that would secure any better service for the city. Several plans were named where the company had ordered the gas taken off because of lack of adequate supply.

Mr. A. R. Campbell, a member-elect, but not yet qualified, was present as a spectator, and was called into the discussion by the chairman, and made some valuable suggestions, and showed that he will be very useful in council to his constituents and the city.

After a great deal of general talk the gas company's representatives were recalled, and it was decided best to have another meeting, to receive a definite proposition as to the new price the company desired to charge. Monday, December 2, was chosen as the night and the committee adjourned.

LOCAL BREVITIES.

Matters of Minor Moment in and About the City.

The Grand—"The Midnight Flood," To-night—"Shore Acres" at the Opera House.

There is a move on foot to consolidate the Bridgeport, Bellair and Martin's Ferry G. & A. R. roads into one.

The will of Wilhelm Lehman, deceased, was admitted to probate and recorded in Clerk Hook's office yesterday.

A supper was given last evening in the Bridgeport M. E. church, which was largely attended, and a neat sum was realized.

Cornellman Fred Williams, of the Eighth ward, was painfully burned while at work at the Benwood steel plant yesterday.

Judge Campbell, of the circuit court, has granted a writ of error in the cigarette cases and arguments will be heard on December 3.

A stereopticon lecture was given last night at St. Matthew's P. E. church, in the presence of a large audience, numbering many five-hundreds.

There were five cases before Mayor Caldwell yesterday, four trials and one drunk. Two were discharged, one was fined, and two were sent to the jail.

The trustees of the First M. E. church at Bridgeport, have been authorized to sell the property, the first tract at not less than \$2,500 and the second at not less than \$500.

A marriage license was issued yesterday by Clerk Hook to John Trewak, aged 30, and Mary Ann Spargo, aged 28, both natives of England, and residents of this city.

Boggs run and Caldwell's run are both successions of little pools of water, frozen thickly. Unless there is a thaw and some more moisture the water famine will continue.

The attraction at the Grand the first half of next week will be the Boston Howard Star Specialty company. It is highly spoken of everywhere, and will no doubt have a successful engagement here.

This evening the Happy Twelve Fishing club will give a dance in the Beabout club house, on Woods street, which promises to be a great success. Mayer's orchestra will furnish the music for the occasion.

Freight business on the Ohio River road continues to be the best in the history of the line. Oil well supplies figure prominently. Waverly is beginning to rival Sistersville as a receiving point for this class of freight.

Says a Main street merchant: "I dread to see a woman enter my store now-a-days. In nine cases out of ten she comes to a subscription to something or the buying of tickets to some entertainment to which I don't want to go."

A valuable mastiff belonging to John Topping, secretary of the Aetna-Standard Iron and Steel company, was run over by an electric car yesterday on the new steel bridge, and so mutilated that he had to be shot by a Wheeling policeman.

Last evening the Wheeling branch of the Daughters of Liberty gave a supper and ball at the Odd Fellows' hall, on Chapline street, which was largely attended, and proved to be a most enjoyable occasion to the many members who were present.

The meeting of the active members of the Woman's Musical Club, will be held at the residence of Mrs. Julius Pollock, 1217 Chapline street, to-morrow afternoon at 2 o'clock. Executive committee meeting will be held at the same place and time. A full attendance is desired.

The Simpson Literary Society, of the Simpson M. E. church will meet this evening and discuss the question: "Should education be made compulsory in West Virginia?" The society meets once a week and is having a very instructive and enjoyable series of discussions on questions of the day.

South Side business men are congratulating themselves on the brick paving on Market street between Twenty-third and Twenty-second streets. It connects the brick paving above and below, and does away with the round-about route over on Chapline street.

Last night at St. Luke's P. E. church, on the island, the church choir gave its first concert, being assisted by the well known basso, Mr. Harry C. Sweeney. The programme given in yesterday's Intelligencer, was given in the presence of a large and interested audience, who frequently gave expression to their approval. Choir Master John A. Roeder, directed the performance, and Miss Annie Sage presided at the piano, and organ.

IN THE OIL FIELDS.

Another Waverly Strike—The Carrothers Well on Monongalia—New Pipe Lines, Other Late Oil News.

The McCary farm well on South Hill, will likely have to be abandoned and a new hole started.

A new well has been started on the Hammett farm in the extreme west end of the new Eureka field.

Hugus No. 1, of Moore & Rathburn, in the Middle Island district, will be drilled in this afternoon.

A new well has been started on the Hammett farm in the extreme west end of Eureka developments.

On the Joe Fisher farm, west of the defined portion of the Waverly field, a party of Parkersburgers will drill a wildcat well.

The fishing job on the Minerva McKelvey well still continues. The well will probably have to be abandoned and a new hole started.

The well on the John West farm will be drilled seventy feet deeper and if no profitable results are obtained, the hole will be abandoned.

On the eastern extension of the Elm run district in the Cairo field, Hopkins will drill a wildcat well a considerable distance in advance of developments.

The Buckeye Pipe Line Company is holding up its end in the present great activity in the lower south-west area, by tearing up its old lines and replacing them with new ones.

The John J. Bartlett farm, consisting of 150 acres, in the Williams district, has been leased by A. J. Richards, M. P. Noll and G. C. Best, of Marietta, who will put down a well at once.

The 6 1/2 casing was put in the Strickler run well in the Cairo field on Wednesday. Progress has been slow on this well, it having been several weeks since the well was started drilling and will not be done for the next ten days.

Although the Carrothers farm well in Monongalia county is in operation, for a few days, reports are that operations there are very active. Farmers in the belt are selling one-half interest in their royalty very cheap, however. Some of the farmers there think that \$200 or

\$1,000 is worth the half interest in right or ten good oil wells. There is a good opportunity there for speculation.

The rich territory of the Waverly shallow pool field was in evidence again Wednesday, when another good well was drilled in on the Wingrove farm. It is located to the extreme south, considerably in advance of developments and will have a production of at least forty barrels.

The Calf creek well of Pope Hargins Bros. & Farson on the Harness farm, had the 8 1/2 casing put in on Wednesday. It never having been cased in the shallow sand. It is expected that the real worth of the well can not be learned. \$15,000 was recently offered for this well, but the offer was refused.

The Buckeye Pipe Line Company is holding up its end of the operations in the Waverly field, by laying new lines and tearing up old ones. The three-inch line from Elba to a point a short distance below Marietta and from there to Waverly is being taken up and a four-inch line is being laid from Elba to Waverly. By this improvement the company will be enabled to pump the crude nineteen miles, while at present it is being pumped thirty-five miles or nearly twice the distance of the now line. The old pipe will be utilized in laying a line from Volcano to Cairo.

THE COLERAIN FIELD.

The Starbuck Well's Actual Production, New Companies.

Mr. Starbuck, who owns the land on which the first Colerain oil well was drilled, recently received his royalty on a basis of a little over 1,000 barrels of oil, as the product of the well from its beginning up to date.

Chancey Hogg, of Cadiz, son of Senator Hogg, is organizing a company to drill in the Colerain field, at a point about midway between the Starbuck and Lepton wells. The location looks promising. Some stock was subscribed in this city yesterday.

Another company has been organized in Bridgeport and will commence as soon as water comes to drill an oil well at Fairpoint, on the Cleveland, Lorain & Wheeling railway. The highest authority gives this point as a good one for oil. It lines up well with the Smith's Ferry, Gould's, Barnesville and Mackaburg fields.

Bridgeport Interested.

The recent good strike in the Archer Fork oil field, by T. N. Barnsdall, has enhanced the value of the Bridgeport Oil & Gas Company's stock. This company has over 1,000 acres leased in this field. They have a derrick up and a contract signed by Mr. Dunn, of Dexter City, to drill a well. Drilling commenced on the Hill farm and it is right in line with the recent good strike and also with fifty good producers.

Good for 150 Barrels.

Sistersville, W. Va., Nov. 21.—Lewis No. 8, of the Deep Run Oil Company was drilled in the Big Injun sand this afternoon and is showing for 150 barrels a day. It is in defined territory on Dog Skin, in Monroe county, Ohio.

NOTES ON NAVIGATION.

Stage of Water and Movements of Boats, The River Interests.

YESTERDAY'S DEPARTURES. Lexington, Matamoras, 11 a. m. Jewel, Clarinton, 2:30 p. m.

BOATS LEAVING TO-DAY. Jewel, Clarinton, 2:30 p. m.

Just fifteen years ago to-day the Ohio river was frozen over at Georgetown, Pa., below Pittsburgh, the earliest freeze recorded on the Ohio.

The marks at the public landing last evening at 6 p. m. showed 2 feet 4 inches and stationary. The morning reports from headwaters showed falling rivers above at every reported point excepting Parkers, where the Allegheny was rising.

Some river men predict rain before Monday, and a coal boat stake not later than Thanksgiving day, next Thursday. There is now fully 500,000 bushels of coal loaded in Pittsburgh harbor, enough to give every towboat on the river two trips. The entire resumption of navigation on the Ohio from Pittsburgh to Cairo will give employment to 20,000 men on 600 steamboats.

The past season, as has been mentioned before, has been one of the worst from the riverman's point of view that has ever been experienced on the Ohio river. An examination of Captain Crockard's records at the wharfport, shows that during almost the entire period from the spring of 1887 to May, 1892, the river was steadily navigable for all the packets. During the period from 1892 up to the present time, however, the records show that there has been more than the usual amount of low water.

Capt. Ellison is naturally much pleased with the light draught of the Virginia, and said yesterday that when she comes out with wheel on and ready for business she would draw but thirty inches. This is remarkably light, taking into consideration the manner in which the boat is built, and will surprise some of the old-time rivermen.

It says the Cincinnati Commercial Gazette, Capt. Ellison said that the Hudson came out drawing thirty-three inches, and now, nine years afterward, only draws three feet. He expects the new boat to hold up equally as well.

The Favorite will be no longer seen in local trades. She made her last trip in the Matamoras trade on Wednesday, and left Matamoras yesterday morning for Catlettsburg, her home port. The Favorite was doing well in this trade during the low water and her retirement caused some surprise at the public landing. There is an explanation, however, and a reasonable one. It seems that the Favorite has been leaking so badly that it has been necessary for some time to have two siphon pumps at work constantly in order to keep her afloat. This is the reason for her retirement. She will go on the docks it is said, and receive general repairs.

The Favorite is the oldest boat plying in large trades, having been built at South Point, Ohio, in 1870.

Oil City—River 8 inches and stationary. Weather clear and cold.

Morgantown—River 5 feet 2 inches and stationary. Weather clear and cold.

Steubenville—River 1 foot 9 inches and falling. Weather clear and cold.

Warren—River seven-tenths of a foot and falling. Weather cool, with light snow.

Greensboro—River 6 feet 10 inches and stationary. Weather fair and cold.

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The trouble with most of the so-called dyspepsia cures, is that they don't cure. They give only temporary relief. Indigestion usually extends all through the digestive tract, from the stomach clear down to the large intestine; the liver too is frequently involved in the trouble being toxic and inactive. For a thorough, radical, permanent cure you must have the whole digestive organism set right. Not violently stirred up, but regulated. Doctor Pierce's Pleasant Pellets will do it. They stimulate the digestive juices of the stomach; invigorate the liver and help it to actively secrete the bile; and act gently on the bowels to promote a regular healthy movement. This means a complete and lasting cure of digestive troubles.

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